



**Jared Golden**  
**Congress of the United States**  
**2nd District of Maine**

November 23, 2020

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
House of Representatives  
H-232, U.S. Capitol Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi:

As many of my colleagues and I have argued over the past several months, Congress has continued to fail the American people by proving unable to move forward with a robust, bipartisan COVID-19 stimulus package that addresses the needs of our constituents and communities. Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation expired in July. The Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) has been shuttered since August. Hospitals are struggling to confront rising caseloads. State and local governments are staring down dramatic budget shortfalls. In short, we are months overdue in taking the action that the American people should expect of their elected leaders. This inaction is unacceptable.

Because we have failed to take action, we have now put ourselves in the position of confronting a new challenge on the horizon: the expiration of a range of programs and policies first authorized by the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act. These include programs that support small businesses, like PPP, unemployment enhancements, like Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation and Pandemic Unemployment Assistance, and critical relief for renters and homeowners, including a moratorium on evictions and mortgage deferral.

The authority for some of these programs, like PPP, has already expired, leaving \$130 billion in aid sitting untouched while businesses continue to shutter. In other cases, as with the Coronavirus Relief Fund (CRF), the CARES Act mandate to spend all funds before December 31, 2020 is forcing state and local leaders into the paradoxical position of being compelled to either spend funds now for which they will have a need in 2021 or lose the assistance altogether. In Maine, state leaders directed a significant portion of CRF funds to our K-12 school system, allowing schools to direct funds to PPE, learning technology, and personnel — important investments to keep our schools functioning during these unprecedented challenges. But the school year does not end on December 31st. Requiring local leaders to spend all of the funding now when they know they could better use those resources through the end of the school year is both foolish and impractical.

Addressing these specific challenges would not all require new funding, but they do require congressional action. While we should not lose sight of the need for a new round of stimulus, it

would be unwise not to prepare for a situation in which the best step we can take in the next several weeks is to ensure that these important programs and authorities do not expire on December 31st. As you work to negotiate a path forward with congressional leaders and the White House, I strongly urge you to prepare a contingency plan that at a minimum addresses these critical expiring priorities.

Thank you for your consideration of these important matters. I stand ready to assist in any way to address the ongoing pandemic and our response.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jared F. Golden", is written over a horizontal line.

Jared F. Golden

Member of Congress